



Myfuture CBC Revision

literature in english - Grade 10

Question Paper

1. A poet uses a sentence fragment: "Dark. Cold. Empty." Grammatically, what is the effect of using fragments instead of full sentences in a poem?

- A. Fragments — create sharp emphasis and mimic speech or strong emotion by leaving out
- B. Complex sentences — provide detailed explanation and subordinate clauses
- C. Interrogatives — ask questions to engage the reader
- D. Relative clauses — give extra information about a noun

2. Which part of an autobiography typically provides background information about the author's family, upbringing, and early influences?

- A. The index
- B. The acknowledgements only
- C. The beginning or opening chapters
- D. The glossary at the end

3. What is a key purpose of repetition and formulaic phrases in oral narratives?

- A. To confuse the audience so they forget details
- B. To hide the main message of the story
- C. To make the language more difficult for listeners
- D. To aid memory and create rhythm during oral performance

4. How can readers spot bias in an autobiography?

- A. By reading only the cover and ignoring the text
- B. By assuming everything is false without checking
- C. By noticing one-sided portrayals and checking other sources for balance
- D. By counting the number of pages

5. Which technique helps preserve oral narratives for future generations in the modern Kenyan classroom?

- A. Recording performances and transcribing them for study
- B. Refusing to tell any stories at school
- C. Erasing all recordings after one day
- D. Teaching only science and ignoring stories

6. What is the best definition of an autobiography?

- A. A made-up story about someone else written by a writer
- B. A fictional story based on events in another country
- C. A historical report written by a historian about many people
- D. A factual account of a person's life written by that person

7. What is an 'aside' in drama?

- A. A stage direction describing the weather
- B. A musical interlude performed between scenes
- C. A note the playwright writes to the actor and never speaks aloud
- D. A short remark by a character to the audience that other characters on stage are not

8. Which term best describes a shorter, more personal life account that focuses on a specific period or theme rather than an entire life?

- A. Memoir
- B. Biography
- C. Encyclopaedia entry
- D. Novel

9. What is the defining feature of an autobiography?

- A. A factual account of a person's life written by that person
- B. A biography written by someone else about a public figure
- C. A collection of poems about childhood
- D. A fictional story inspired by historical events

10. Which of the following is a common feature of oral literature performances?

- A. Strict adherence to a single, unchanging version
- B. Lack of repetition or formulaic phrases
- C. Audience participation and call-and-response
- D. Use of only printed text with no performance

11. The River and the Source, _____ was written by a Kenyan author, explores family life.

- A. where
- B. who
- C. that
- D. which

12. Which technique helps oral poets remember long passages of poetry?

- A. Using different languages for each sentence
- B. Use of formulaic expressions, repeated structures and musical patterns
- C. Memorising random numbers unrelated to the poem
- D. Relying solely on written copies locked away

13. A poet repeats the same word at the start of several successive lines: "I remember... I remember... I remember..." What is the grammatical/rhetorical term for this repetition and what is its effect?

- A. Antithesis — placing contrasting ideas together for effect
- B. Asyndeton — removing conjunctions between clauses
- C. Anaphora — repetition of initial words to create emphasis and rhythm
- D. Metonymy — substituting a related word for another

14. I read _____ novel from Kenya last week.

- A. the
- B. an
- C. a
- D.

15. Which statement about truth in autobiographies is most accurate?

- A. They are personal recollections that may include mistakes, bias or selective memory
- B. They must never express the author's emotions
- C. Autobiographies are always 100% accurate in every detail
- D. They are legal documents certified by courts

16. When reading a Kenyan novel, one should note its themes because _____ help explain the context.

- A. they
- B. it
- C. their
- D. them

17. Why might an autobiographer include a preface or epilogue in their book?

- A. To convert the book into a fictional tale
- B. To remove all dates and names for privacy
- C. To explain purpose, provide context or reflect on events after the main narrative
- D. To hide key parts of the story from readers

18. Which stylistic feature is most characteristic of oral poetry and songs?

- A. Strict adherence to rhyme schemes only seen in written sonnets
- B. Repetition and use of refrains
- C. Complete lack of musical rhythm
- D. Use of complicated mathematical formulas

19. What is oral literature?

- A. Stories, songs and poems passed down by word of mouth
- B. Music recorded in a studio
- C. Books and printed poems studied in school
- D. Legal documents written by elders

20. Which grammatical feature best explains why a poet might repeat a clause but change a single word each time (e.g., "I was brave, I was tired, I was small")?

- A. Passive voice — shifting focus to the recipient of actions
- B. Ellipsis — removing necessary words to create ambiguity
- C. Syntactic iteration — repeating a fixed grammatical frame while changing a lexical item
- D. Anacoluthon — breaking sentence structure suddenly to confuse readers

21. What is dramatic irony in a short story?

- A. When the story has no dialogue
- B. When the outcome is exactly what the characters expected
- C. When the reader and the characters both know the same information
- D. When the reader knows something important that the characters do not

22. How do autobiographies serve historians and students studying recent Kenyan history?

- A. They provide personal perspectives and first-hand accounts of events and social life
- B. They replace all other historical documents
- C. They are only useful for learning grammar
- D. They always give complete and unbiased national histories

23. Which of the following best explains why an autobiography might not be completely factual?

- A. Authors always invent events to entertain
- B. Autobiographies are written by historians only
- C. Memory is selective and the author may interpret events from their personal viewpoint
- D. Autobiographies must be fictional by definition

24. What is an important reason oral narratives often feature stock characters (e.g., trickster, wise elder)?

- A. They prevent any moral from being understood
- B. They quickly establish character roles so listeners can follow and remember the story
- C. They require the storyteller to use complex vocabulary
- D. They ensure every story ends with a tragedy

25. When noting a difficult conversation in a journal, which detail is most useful for later reflection?

- A. A list of unrelated facts
- B. Only the exact words other people said, without context
- C. A formal citation of the conversation
- D. How the writer felt and what they learned from it

26. In exams, when asked to identify an autobiographical technique, which answer is correct if the author comments on the meaning of events?

- A. Use of reflection or introspection
- B. Complete absence of any personal opinion
- C. Description of scientific formulas
- D. Inclusion of only invented characters

27. In many Kenyan oral songs, what role does the chorus usually play?

- A. It writes down the song for the performer
- B. It answers or joins the lead singer in a call-and-response pattern
- C. It remains completely silent throughout the performance
- D. It only watches without participating

28. Many students enjoy _____ Kenyan novels in literature class.

- A. reading
- B. to read
- C. having read
- D. read

29. What is a praise song in oral tradition?

- A. A composition that honours and celebrates an individual or group
- B. A private diary entry recited quietly
- C. A song meant only for children to learn the alphabet
- D. A song that criticizes leaders publicly

30. How does an autobiography differ from a biography?

- A. An autobiography never includes dates while a biography always does
- B. An autobiography is always fictional while a biography is always factual
- C. An autobiography is written only for family use; a biography is public
- D. An autobiography is written by the subject; a biography is written by someone else

31. A poem uses the pronouns "thou" and "thee." Grammatically, what do these archaic pronouns correspond to in modern English?

- A. "We" — the first-person plural pronoun used in old texts
- B. "It" — a neutral pronoun used historically for objects
- C. "You" — the singular second-person pronoun in older English forms
- D. "They" — the third-person plural pronoun in historical English

32. Why do schools study autobiographies in Literature in English?

- A. Because they never mention real events
- B. Because they are always shorter than novels
- C. To learn real-life perspectives, themes of identity and historical context
- D. Because they are written in verse

33. Which literary device involves deliberate exaggeration often used in praise songs?

- A. Anagram
- B. Alliteration
- C. Hyperbole
- D. Onomatopoeia

34. A poet deliberately repeats a verb form for emphasis: 'We shall fight, we shall strive, we shall stand.' This repetitive grammatical structure is best called:

- A. Anaphora combined with parallelism
- B. Parenthesis
- C. Metaphor
- D. Inversion

35. Who traditionally serves as the keeper of oral songs, history, and praise in many communities?

- A. A school principal writing textbooks
- B. A professional oral performer such as a praise-singer, bard, or oral historian
- C. A government official who issues permits
- D. A random person who never performs

36. Which point of view is most commonly used in an autobiography?

- A. Omniscient narrator with no personal involvement
- B. Second person point of view (you)
- C. Third person point of view (he/she/they)
- D. First person point of view (I/we)

37. Which Kenyan autobiography was written by Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai?

- A. The Black Leopard
- B. Petals of Blood
- C. Unbowed
- D. The River Between

38. What is oral-formulaic composition in the context of oral poetry?

- A. A technology for printing songs quickly
- B. A strict written rulebook that cannot be altered
- C. A dance move performed with the chorus
- D. A method of composing using fixed phrases and patterns to create new verses during

39. What information do stage directions usually provide?

- A. Instructions about characters' movements, settings, props and tone
- B. A complete history of the playwright's life
- C. A list of every theatre ticket sold for the performance
- D. The final exam questions for literature class

40. When studying an autobiography in class, why is it useful to consider historical context?

- A. Historical context tells you the book's page count
- B. Context helps explain events, social pressures, and choices the author faced
- C. Historical context is only for novels
- D. Context replaces the need to read the text

41. Which Kenyan writer's prison diary is often used in Kenyan English classes as autobiographical material?

- A. Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary by Ngg wa Thiong'o
- B. Petals of Blood by Ngg wa Thiong'o
- C. Wizard of the Crow by Ngg wa Thiong'o
- D. The River Between by Ngg wa Thiong'o

42. How does dialogue function in a short story?

- A. To reveal character, create conflict, and move the plot forward
- B. Only to fill space on the page
- C. To give the exact date and time of events
- D. To change the story into a play automatically

43. Which grammatical construction is typically used in poems to focus attention on the recipient of an action rather than the actor, for example "The poem was admired by many"?

- A. Imperative mood — gives a command rather than describing who acted
- B. Coordination — links two independent clauses with a conjunction
- C. Passive voice — places the object of an action as the grammatical subject to shift focus
- D. Active voice — keeps the subject performing the action in focus

44. Which of the following is an oral poetic form often used to tell long community histories?

- A. Epic or heroic narrative performed orally
- B. Personal diaries stored in archives
- C. Legal statutes published in newspapers
- D. Short printed pamphlets

45. Which feature best distinguishes a memoir from an autobiography?

- A. A memoir focuses on a specific period or theme in a person's life, while an autobiography
- B. A memoir is always written in third person, while an autobiography uses first person
- C. A memoir is always fictional, while an autobiography is always factual
- D. A memoir never includes personal reflection, while an autobiography does

46. Which of the following is a key difference between a biography and an autobiography?

- A. Autobiographies never include dates or places
- B. A biography is always shorter than an autobiography
- C. An autobiography is written by the subject about themselves, while a biography is written
- D. Biographies must be published during the subject's lifetime

47. What role does reflection play in autobiographical writing?

- A. It prevents the author from naming any dates
- B. It turns the book into a play script
- C. It helps the author interpret events and show personal growth
- D. It replaces factual detail with fictional scenes

48. A common theme in Kenyan plays such as *The Black Hermit* is:

- A. Purely fictional supernatural horror with no social context
- B. Instructions for farming techniques
- C. Detailed descriptions of space travel and alien cultures
- D. The conflict between tradition and modernity in Kenyan society

49. Which of these is a common reason an author writes an autobiography?

- A. To provide technical instructions for laboratory work
- B. To teach a programming language
- C. To record personal history, influence readers and leave a legacy
- D. To invent a fantasy world with dragons

50. Which form of oral literature uses short, memorable sayings to teach lessons or express wisdom?

- A. Epics
- B. Novels
- C. Dramas
- D. Proverbs